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Lark Street BID Board Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2008

Attendance: Jerry Aumand, Maude Baum, Richard Berkley, Erin Brewer, Richard Conti, Rob Curry, Megan Dailey, Jeffrey Gritsavage, Dino Kacani, Donald Keenan, Jim Linnan, Lucia Prudencio, Karen Waldron

Staff: Mary Spinelli, Michael Weidrich

Guests: Matt Montesano- APD, Maura Gannon

The meeting commenced at 5:45 pm.

Meeting was conducted by Jeffrey Gritsavage, Board Chair, who called a quorum.

Opening Remarks

Jeffrey Gritsavage asked everyone to review the minutes from the March Board Meeting. Two corrections to be made were stated. Richard Berkley voted to approve the minutes pending those corrections. Jerry Aumand seconded the motion and all were in favor. Gritsavage gave an overview of his letter for the annual report. The focus of his letter being the need to bring more business to Lark Street through marketing it as a destination for daytrips as well as pushing the area as an arts district. Board members agreed that daytime traffic was lacking and several ideas were suggested. State workers are a large group that has not been tapped into as a lunch crowd. Richard Conti suggested having a 'Lunch on Lark' week and Jerry Aumand suggested having a trolley to ride the state workers over to Lark Street. Cooperative advertising of all the restaurants would bring advertising costs down significantly.

Gritsavage appointed himself 'key' person for the neighborhood stoop sale scheduled for May 3rd. He asked if Jerry Aumand would act as organizer for the Tuesday Night Bar/Restaurant specials

Gritsavage stated that the city of Albany was bringing bike racks to Lark Street.

Special Events Update

Monday Night Concert Series

As reported by Maura Gannon

- Booking of the bands is moving along with several possibilities.
- Matthew Baumgartner will be participating on an ad hoc booking committee that also includes Willobee from WEQX. Maura asked if Richard Berkley would also be involved. Richard said yes.
- The NYS Council on the Arts Grant is due May 1st.
- Maura and Michael will be meeting with the Times Union the week of April 7th.

- WEQX will be doing radio for the event.
- Sponsorships from banks, etc. are being actively looked at.

Richard Berkley suggested reaching out to different women's organizations as possible sponsors.

Champagne on the Park

- Jim Linnan stated that in 2007, every board member was on the Honorary Committee for COP and that it showed full Board Support of the BID.
- Michael Weidrich reported that the BID held a meeting of Lark Street retailers to engage them in participating in Champagne on the Park by showcasing their businesses in the silent auction
- Weidrich also reported that the BID had been talking to restaurants about the tasting stations and is planning a meeting with Tess of Lark Tavern to help organize the food.

Art on Lark

- Maude Baum reported on the previous week's meeting for Art on Lark and that all present had left with tasks.
- Michael Weidrich reported that he had accepted a \$3,000+ Grant for Art on Lark from the Arts Center in Troy.
- Jeffrey Gritsavage noted that Michael Weidrich has been expanding the program and pushing Lark Street to be an Arts District.

Other Business

Annual Report

- Gritsavage stated the positions on the board open and that Erin Brewer and Donald Keenan would be running uncontested. Matt Baumgartner will be running for the open Commercial Space seat.
- Weidrich stated that nominations would be accepted up until April 13th and that all names would appear on the ballot and eligible for a vote at the annual meeting.
- Jim Linnan moved to support all three nominations, Jerry Aumand seconded and all were in favor.

Stoop Sale

- Gritsavage reported that there will be a neighborhood-wide stoop sale and commercial sidewalk sale on Saturday May 3rd from 10am to 5pm.
- All neighborhood groups are being asked for a small contribution to help with the cost of advertising

Oktoberfest

Jerry Aumand offered to organize an Oktoberfest on Madison Ave with the street blocked off between Lark and Willett. There was a discussion about asking Bill Trudeau to give his opinion on whether Madison could be closed safely, or whether a partial closing was better from the viewpoint of allowing first-responders' quick access to Albany Medical Center.

Committee Update

▪ Development Committee

Members were asked to assist with sponsorship solicitation from the current sponsor list.

▪ Safety Committee

Richard Conti reported the possibility of adding more street lighting on Dove Street and sending a letter out to residents for suggestions/concerns. Matt Montesano discussed the new Crime Reporting program on the City's website. It maps weekly crime occurrences by a coded system.

▪ Planning Committee

Jim Linnan stated that The Wine Bar and The Tea Room were both approved for their respective special use permit and use variance. Jeffrey Gritsavage motioned to adjourn. Richard Berkley seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting ended at 7:15 pm.